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AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 25 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached statement dated 25 March 1993, by His Excellency Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of the delegation representing the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and the attached statement as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued in New York on 25 March 1993 by the President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

By signing the Vance-Owen Peace Plan for the Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina (the nine principles, the military agreement, the maps of the proposed provinces and the document on the interim period) the State delegation of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina states the following:

1. Regardless of the fact whether or not all parties will sign the documents today, the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina considers that the International Community was and will remain obligated to protect the independence and the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an attacked country, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, International Law, decisions of the London Conference, and especially according to all relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council concerning the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Our signatures on the proposed documents will become invalid and will be considered null and void if the following conditions are not met:

a) all interested parties, especially the aggressor side does not sign the documents without any alterations or reservations within a reasonable time frame.

b) the International Community does not undertake, within a timely fashion the effective measures of implementation of the signed agreement, to the degree and in the manner which the situation will impose.

c) if the aggression continues.

3. Any provisions of the signed documents cannot be interpreted and not be understood as the diminishing integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent and undivided whole state.

On the contrary, the signed agreement must be understood and can only be interpreted as the means and way to protect and strengthen that integrity.

4. It is understood that individuals declared as war criminals, or for whom there is a grounded suspicion that they were instigators or organizers or executors of war crimes on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will not and cannot be nominated for the highest positions of authority of the State, both in the Interim Presidency and Interim Government.

5. The Delegation of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina asks the international community and the UN Security Council to continue with the intention of successfully completing the establishment of the Court for War Crimes committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslavia.

6. Upon the signing of today's documents, the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses that the aggression and its consequences be stopped and reversed with peaceful means, but at the same time the Delegation will not surrender its legitimate right to self defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In this regard, if the peace efforts remain without results, the Presidency and the Government will undertake all necessary measures to defend its people, and in that case, expect the Security Council without further delay to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

7. The Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its appreciation to the United States of America and to its special envoy to these talks Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, for the constructive contributions in overcoming the difficulties which arose during the course of these talks.

8. We are issuing this statement concurrent with the signing of today's documents and are handing it over to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia with the request that it be included and attached with the official documents of the Conference.

Delegation for the Government
of the Republic of Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Alija Izetbegovic
President of the Presidency
of the Republic of Bosnia and
Herzegovina